

## **REMARKS**

Applicant traverses the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claims 18, 21-22, and 27-34 over Babu (U.S. Patent 5,451,964). Applicant likewise traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 19-20 and 23 over Babu in view of Toyooka (U.S. 2002/0169545). The Applicant also traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 24-25 over Babu in view of Fukuda (U.S. 2003/0216864).

The Examiner has not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness for any of these rejections. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981 (C.C.P.A. 1974). The Examiner is required to set forth detailed reasons why one of ordinary skill in the art would combine the references, not merely provide conclusory statements. *In re Rouffet*, 149 F.3d 1350 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *KSR v. Teleflex*, 127 S. Ct. 1727, 1735 (2007). The Examiner has failed to meet this burden with respect to each § 103(a) rejection.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claim 26, and has amended this claim to read in independent form, including the features of the base claim and intervening claims, thereby placing at least claim 26 in condition for immediate allowance.

In addition, notwithstanding the lack of a *prima facie* obviousness for the rejected claims, but solely to move this case forward to allowance, Applicant has amended claims 18, 31, and 32-34 to include allowable features of claim 26, thereby further emphasizing the absence of a *prima facie* case of obviousness of these claims.

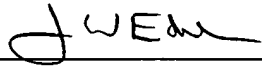
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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